

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON TURKISH TROOP REDUCTIONS;
SECRETARY - MAKARIOS MEETING

1. NOVEMBER 13 WASHINGTON POST CARRIES ATHENS DATELINED
REPORT THAT TURKEY HAS WITHDRAWN 5000 TROOPS FROM CYPRUS
IN ATTEMPT TO PLACATE US CONGRESSIONAL OPINION. AT
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S DAILY BRIEFING NOVEMBER 13 THERE
WAS FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON POST STORY:

Q. BOB, IT WAS REPORTED TODAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN WITH-
DRAWALS OF ABOUT 5,000 TURKISH TROOPS FROM CYPRUS AND
THAT THIS IS PART OF THE WITHDRAWAL THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN
ANNOUNCED ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO ANKARA. TWO
QUESTIONS: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONFIRMING
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INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE WITHDRAWALS? AND, SECONDLY, IS

THERE ANY INFORMATION THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ABOUT
FUTURE WITHDRAWALS?

A. IN ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION, MURREY, WE HAVE
SEEN THE SAME REPORTS YOU HAVE--WE CANNOT CONFIRM THEM--
OF THE REDUCTIONS.

SECOND, I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING ON ANY
ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS HERE.

Q. YOU MEAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SO OUT OF TOUCH WITH
THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS THAT IT DOES NOT KNOW IF THERE
HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWALS OF FORCES?

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM THE PRESS REPORTS THAT WE HAVE ALL
READ HERE.

NOW, OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, AS WE ALL KNOW, WE'VE BEEN
DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT, AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS RELATED
TO CYPRUS, WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

Q. THERE OR HERE?

A. AND IF THESE PRESS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, WE WOULD
CONSIDER THEM A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT, OBVIOUSLY.

Q. IS ANY ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO ESTABLISH WHAT THE FACTS
ARE SO FAR AS THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IS,
SAY, BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN ANKARA AND THE TURKISH
GOVERNMENT ON THIS. OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL BE LOOKING INTO IT.

Q. WELL, JUST TO BE SURE, IT ISN'T THAT YOU DON'T KNOW;
IT'S JUST THAT YOU CAN'T TELL US WHETHER 5,000 FOREIGN
TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM CYPRUS.

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM WHETHER THIS NEWS REPORT THAT 5,000
TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN IS ACCURATE. I CANNOT CONFIRM
THAT, AS FAR AS THE NUMBERS GO OR ANYTHING ELSE.
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Q. BOB --

A. IF IT IS TRUE, WE WELCOME IT.

2. AT SAME BRIEFING THERE WAS FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS SCHEDULED
LATER IN DAY:

Q. WHY IS THE SECRETARY MEETING WITH MR. MAKARIOS TODAY?

A. WELL, THE SECRETARY -- THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME, I BELIEVE, THAT HE WILL HAVE SEEN THE ARCHBISHOP SINCE LAST

JULY; AND THIS IS SIMPLY ANOTHER OF THE MEETINGS THAT HE IS HAVING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS. AND THEN INsofar AS THE RESULT OF THE TALK, I WOULD ASSUME THAT WHEN THE ARCHBISHOP COMES OUT, WHY, MAYBE WE'LL HAVE A READOUT--AS USUALLY HAPPENS HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

Q. CAN WE REQUEST THAT NOW FROM YOU--A READOUT--AFTER THE--

A. WELL, SPENCE, WHY DON'T WE SEE WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE MEETING AND MAYBE THAT WILL BE THE READOUT, IF THE SECRETARY AND THE ARCHBISHOP COME DOWN. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS. AND IF THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN, I WILL SEEK TO GET A READOUT.

3. SEPTEL REPORTS REMARKS BY SECRETARY AND MAKARIOS FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING. KISSINGER

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